(b) whether besides the above cut, people are still working and drawing salary in major stations like DDK Delhi etc.; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not promoting to Senior Technicians?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) As part of the general policy guidelines of the Government, 10% of posts in the Ministry and each of the attached and sub-ordinate offices etc., including those of Senior Engineering Assistants and Engineering Assistants, were abolished.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Promotions of Senior Technicians have not been effected due to non-availability of vacancies in the grade of Engineering Assistants, etc.

[Translation]

Telephone Demand in Gujarat

3643. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are demands for telephone connections in each district of Ahmedabad, Bhavanagar, Dholaka and Dhanduka of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the telephone connections sanctioned and installed in each of the above districts during 1994 till date;

(d) the time by which the remaining telephone connections are likely to be provided; and

(e) the target set for providing telephone connections in the above districts during August 1, 1997 to December 31, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Sir, the details of demands for telephone connections as on 31.7.97 in Ahmedabad Telecom District (including Dholaka and Dhandhuka Talukas) and Bhavanagar Telecom District are given in Statement-I.

(c) The information is given in Statement-II.

(d) The remaining waiting list as on 31.7.97 is likely to be cleared by and of March 1999 progressively subject to timely availability of materials and repurchase.

(e) The target set for providing telephone connection during 1.8.97 to 31.3.98 are as under :—

Ahmedabad Telecom Distt. : 46575 (including Dholaka & Dhandhuka Talukas

Bhavanagar Telecom Distt. : 15110.

Plan for 1998-99 has not yet been finalised. However the balance waiting list as on 31.7. 97 in both districts is likely to be cleared by March 1999.

Statement-I

	Name of Distt.	Working connections as on 31.7.97 (a)	Waiting List as on 31.7.97 (b)	Demand as on 31.7.97 (a+b)
1.	Ahmedabad Telecom Distt (including Dholaka & Dhandhuka Talukas)	303186	54522	357708
2.	Bhavanagar Telecom Distt.	34229	22044	56273

Statement-II

	Name of Distt.	Telephone connections sanctioned & installed during				Waiting list as on 31.7.97.
		1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1.4.97 to 31.7.97	
1.	Ahmedabad Telecom Distt. (including Dholaka & Dhandhuka Talukas)	23660	36170	32216	3425	54522
2.	Bhavanagar Telecom Distt.	4615	3549	3674	890	22044

[English]

Telephone Exchanges in Nalanda

3644. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the capacity of telephone exchange at Nalanda is very limited and does not provide its subscribers with dynamic lock facility;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to expand its capacity;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the time by which expansion work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. At present C-DOT 128P exchange is working at Nalanda. In such small size exchanges, the dynamic lock facility is not available due to technical reason.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. There is a plan to expand existing exchange at Nalanda to 256P by March 1998. This exchange will have the facility of dynamic lock.